

THE VETERINARY SCIENCE.

the round joint and also helps to form the upper wall of the pelvic or hip cavity. The ischium passes back from the round joint and helps to form the floor of the pelvic cavity, and can be felt in a horse that is poor in flesh projecting out below the tail on each side. The pubis, the smallest of the three bones, is situated immediately in front of the ischium bone and forms the floor of the pelvic cavity.

STERNUM OR BREAST BONE.

This bone is small and short in the horse and is situated on the lower side of the chest cavity. The principal points of this bone are that it is the softest one in the horse, and the first eight pairs of ribs are attached to it on either side. This bone, in the horse, resembles a small, flat boat.

RIBS.

In considering the ribs we find eighteen pairs. They form the lateral wall of the thorax or chest cavity and afford protection to the heart and lungs. They are attached above to the dorsal region of the back bone. Below, the first eight pair are attached to the sternum, or breast bone; these are called the true ribs of the horse; the next ten pair are not attached to the sternum below, the lower ends being free, and are continued downwards and forwards by a small piece of cartilage or gristle, and are just slightly attached to the breast bone; these are called the false ribs. Also remember that, starting with the first rib, they get longer until we get to the ninth rib; afterwards they get shorter until the last rib is reached, it being only a few inches long.

NUMBER OF BONES IN SKELETON OF HORSE.

In the head of the colt is found thirty-eight bones, not including the teeth, but in after life we find a great many bones become attached to each other by a process called ossification.

Head.....	38
Spinal column.....	54
Pelvic cavity or hips, three pair or six single.....	6
Ribs, eighteen pair.....	36
Breast.....	1
Both front legs.....	42
Both hind legs.....	36
Ear, bones very small and unimportant.....	3

Total, not including the teeth216

The teeth are dealt with separately in another section of this book.